

DOUG BUFFONE'S



BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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Gault lift
Bears past Bucs**

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**Robinson shows
Ditka the value
of patience**

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**Falcons are
back on track**

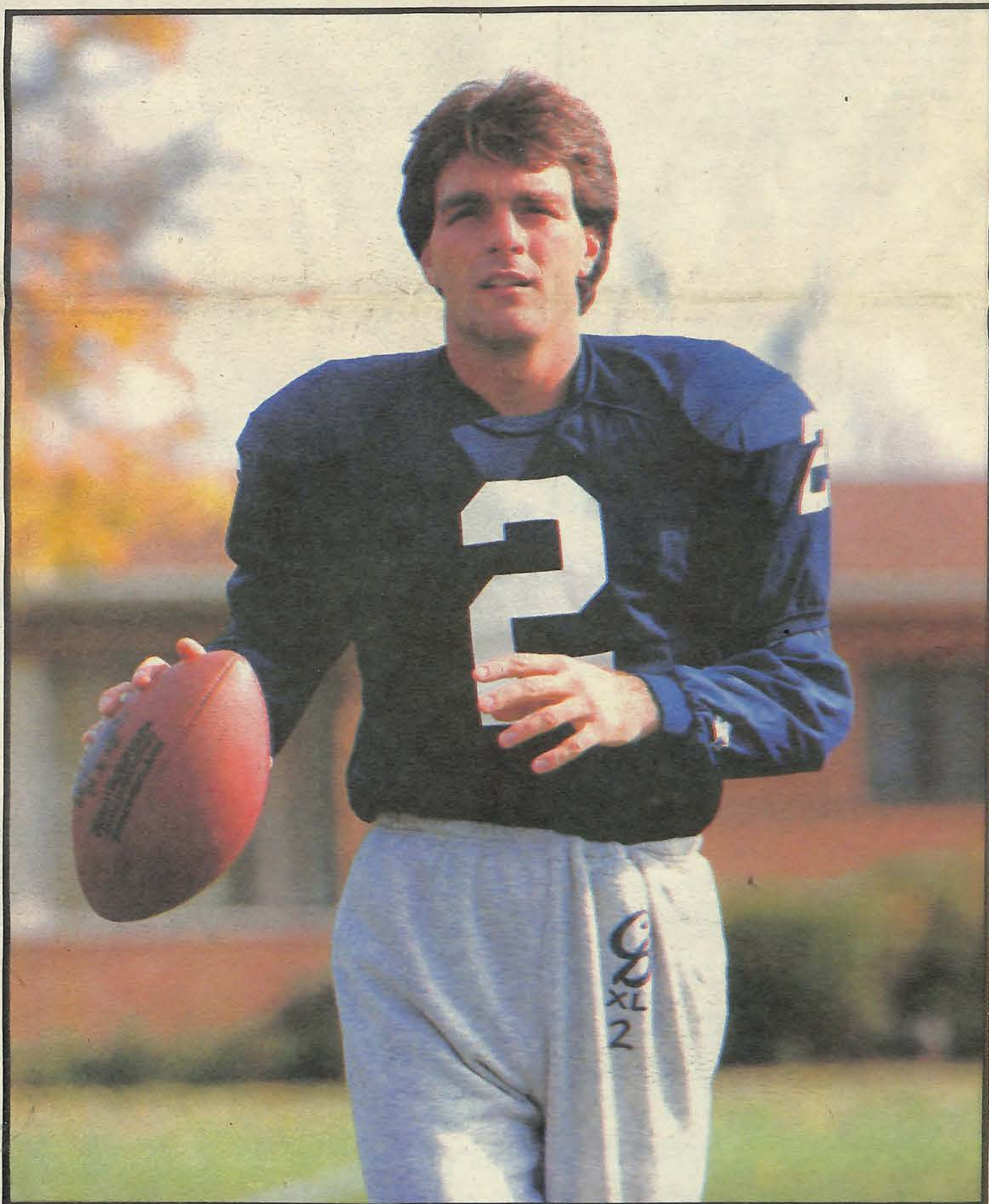
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**Things are
different for
Bears this year**

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A newspaper devoted exclusively
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL
Vol. 11, No. 16 November 17, 1986

On the cover...

After only a couple weeks of practice in Lake Forest, quarterback Doug Flutie made his first appearance with the Bears Sunday against Tampa Bay. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



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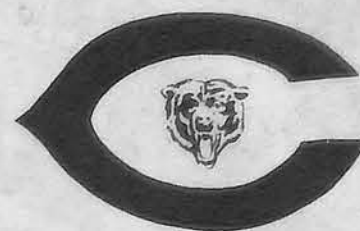
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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Good all-around game for Bears

The Bears went down to Tampa last weekend hoping their game against the Buccaneers would be a confidence builder. And that's just what it was.

The Bears played an all-around good game against Tampa Bay, beating them 23-3. It was just what they needed after losing two of their last three games.

Everyone and every group played well in the game, starting with Mike Tomczak at quarterback. He played the game and won it. It doesn't matter that it was against Tampa Bay and the worst defense in the league. The fact remains that he went out there and did the job.

An important factor in Tomczak's success was that he had time to throw the ball for over 200 yards and a touchdown. He had time to wait for the receivers to run good routes and find them.

Of course, one of those targets was Willie Gault. It was nice to see Chicago get him back in the game. The Bears needed to find him down field, and on Sunday they did.

Having Tomczak come out and throw the ball didn't hurt, either. He built his confidence from the start of the game and it never went down.

Walter Payton went over 100 yards and had another great game. He showed he still can make some real good moves on that long screen play on the opening drive. And when Walter has a good game, some of the credit for it has to go to the line.

On the other side, the Bears' defensive line also did a good job. Ron Rivera, Al Harris, Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael all played well. If you have to find any fault, the Bears again were hurt on third-down situations. It's something the defense has struggled with all year and needs to improve.

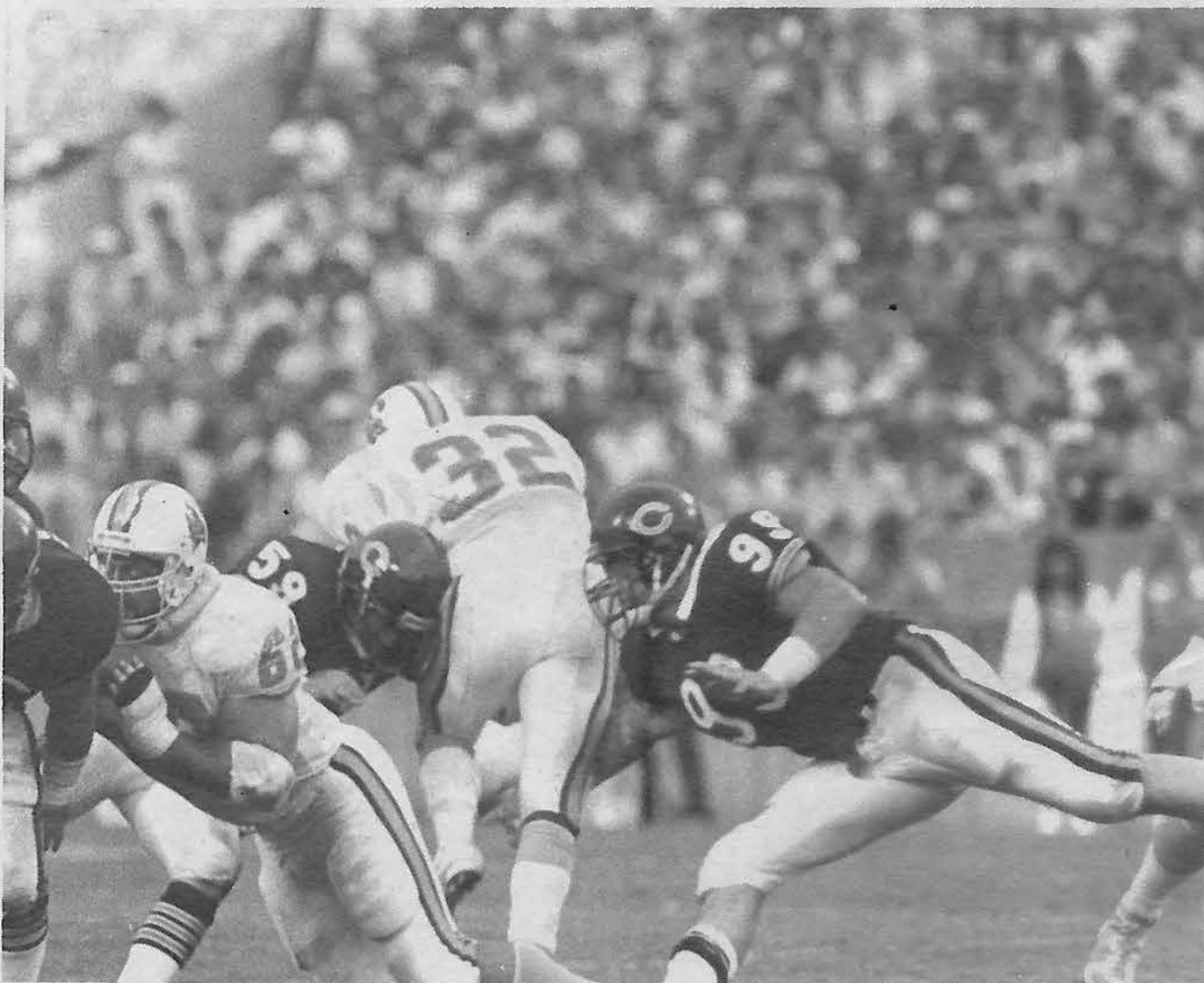
The defensive line also did a good job of containing Steve Young. He has a great ability to scramble, but he wasn't able to gain much against the Bears. He only rushed four times, and his longest run was for nine yards.

With the temperature on the field at 120 degrees at game time, the heat could have been a factor against the Bears. I know how hard it can be to go to a warm-weather city and play in that kind of heat when you're not used to it. It's not easy.

But the Bears showed how well-conditioned they are and didn't fade at the end of the game. That impressed me a lot.

And look at how many times the Bears were inside the 20-yard line. They could have scored a lot more than 23 points in the game, but settled for three short field goals by Kevin Butler. Talk about consistency, Butler has now made 16 consecutive field goals, a new Bear record.

All in all, it was a good team win. Tomczak got some needed experience and the Bears got the win. With the pressure on to get the home-field advantage for the playoffs, it was a big win for Chicago.



The Bear defense held Tampa Bay running back James Wilder to 55 yards before he left the game in the third quarter with bruised ribs. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

Tomczak improves his stock with win

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

TAMPA - Before Mike Tomczak left for Tampa from O'Hare Airport in Chicago he called his dad for a last-minute talk.

The pep talk he got from his dad might not have been as good as "win one for the Gipper," but it had the same effect.

In his first start since the Philadelphia game in the second week of the season, Tomczak passed for 265 yards and one touchdown to spark the Bears to a 23-3 win over Tampa Bay in Tampa before 70,097 fans Sunday.

"When I was at the airport I called my dad and told him I'd give it my all," Tomczak said. "He said don't worry, it's just like high school. Go out and do it all over again. He always brings these high school games into play."

The game Tomczak's dad reminded him of this time was a game in which Tomczak led his team from behind for a win.

"We won the game but I don't remember the score," Tomczak said. "My dad knows more statistics than I do."

His dad might also remember a couple plays from Sunday's game better than Tomczak will a few years from now. One of those plays may be his 17-yard completion to Willie Gault to start the game.

"I wanted him to throw the ball right off, not just stand there and hand the ball off," said Bears coach Mike Ditka. "It helps the quarterback get into the game, and that's what I tried to do."

"It shows a lot of confidence that the coach has in me," Tomczak said. "So I want to do well in turn."

Tomczak's accurate in first quarter

Tomczak looked as sharp as he has all season in the first quarter when he completed three of his first four passes for 111 yards and one touchdown.

After completing his first pass to Gault, Tomczak moved the Bears all the way downfield to score on his one-yard dive. It marked the first time all year the Bears scored a touchdown on their opening drive.

Payton was the prime mover on the drive, accounting for 72 of the Bears' 92 yards on the drive. Payton recorded 57 of those yards on a screen pass that the Bears set up perfectly.

The Tomczak-Gault combination wasn't finished for the quarter yet. On the fourth play of the Bears' next drive, Tomczak threw 37 yards downfield to Gault for another touchdown, giving the Bears a quick 14-0 lead.

"It was a read play by me," Gault said. "I read the weak safety. I have the option to go which way I want to. I just read the right way and so did the quarterback."



Mike Tomczak was on the mark Sunday against Tampa Bay, passing for 265 yards and one touchdown in the Bears' 23-3 win over the Buccaneers. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

Tomczak and Gault teamed up one more time for a big play before the game was finished. Tomczak hit Gault on a 50-yard fly pattern to set up the Bears' last score in the fourth quarter.

After the play, Doug Flutie made his first NFL appearance, moving the Bears to the Buccaneers' five-yard line before Kevin Butler kicked a 22-yard field goal at the two-minute warning.

Gault, who finished with four catches for 116 yards, said the Bears weren't doing anything special to get the ball to him more this game. "It just happened like that," he said. "The game plan wasn't for me to run long on them. But I was glad the way it did happen. It was just by chance."

"When you got a speedster out there you got to test him," Tomczak said. "Our triple-tandem of receivers, Gault, Dennis Gentry and Keith Ortego, is getting more

and more confident every week."

Tampa Bay scores its only points

Tampa Bay managed to put a field goal on the scoreboard after the Bears opened up their 14-0 lead. Running back James Wilder ran 33 yards off tackle for the big play on the 56-yard drive that ended with Donald Igwebulike's 42-yard field goal.

Tomczak hit a cold spell after his touchdown pass to Gault. He threw four straight incompletions and an interception before regaining his touch on the Bears' last drive of the half.

The Bears got the ball back with 1:45 left in the half when Vestee Jackson made his first career interception on a Steve Young pass intended for Gerald Carter. Jackson, however, gave the Bears bad field position when he caught the ball at the Bears' one-yard line.

It didn't look like the Bears would take advantage of the opportunity when they were faced with third and nine at the two. But Tomczak found tight end Tim Wrightman wide open in the middle and completed a 23-yard gain.

"Tim had a freelance route," Tomczak said. "He goes out to the middle linebacker and they left him all alone. There's nobody there, and he showed some great speed out there, huh?"

The speed might not have been there, but Wrightman got the first down and kept the drive alive.

Tomczak completed three more passes on the drive, including a 37-yard reception to Gentry that moved the ball to Tampa Bay's eight-yard line.

On the play, Gentry had to leap in the air to take the

Continued Page 14



Kevin Butler connected on three field-goal attempts against Tampa Bay to run his streak of consecutive field goals made to 16, a new Bear record. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

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Bears-Buccaneers Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears	14	3	0	6	—	23
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	3	0	0	0	—	3
Chicago Bears, 1, 5:17, Tomczak 1-yd. run, Butler kick, 7-0						
Chicago Bears, 1, 8:20, Gault 37-yd. pass Tomczak, Butler kick, 14-0						
Tampa Bay, 2, 13:12, Igwebuike 42-yd., 14-3						
Chicago Bears, 2, 14:57, Butler 25-yd. FG, 17-3						
Chicago Bears, 4, 1:35, Butler 23-yd. FG, 20-3						
Chicago Bears, 4, 13:02, Butler 22-yd. FG, 23-3						
Attendance 70,097; tickets distributed 74,314; unused 4,217; time: 3:12						
Weather: partly cloudy; temperature 87; wind and direction east at 7 mph						

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Tampa
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	20	14
By Rushing	10	2
By Passing	8	11
By Penalty	2	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-11	7-17
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-1	1-3
TOTAL NET YARDS	434	272
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	63	68
Av. Gain per Off. Play	6.8	4.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	176	84
Total Rushing Plays	37	20
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	4.8	4.2
NET YARDS PASSING	258	188
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-7	5-32
Gross Yds. Passing	265	220
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	25-11-1	43-22-1
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	9.9	3.9
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	4-50.8	6-41.7
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	17	0
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	2-17	0-0
No. and Yds. KO Returns	2-40	1-24
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	1-0	1-0
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	4-33	4-21
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	1-0	4-1
TOUCHDOWNS	2	0
Rushing	1	0
Passing	1	0
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	2-2	0-0
FG MADE — ATT.	3-3	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:31	31:29

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Chicago Bears

	Att.	Net	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING						
Suhey	4	12	3.0	5	0	
Payton	20	139	7.0	26	0	
Tomczak	1	1	1.0	1	1	
Thomas	5	38	7.6	23	0	
Gault	1	-15	0	-15	0	
Flutie	1	-1	0	-1	0	
Anderson	1	1	1.0	1	0	
Sanders	4	1	.3	5	0	

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had
PASSING								
Tomczak	24	11	265	1/7	1	50	1	
Flutie	1	0	0	0/0	0	0	0	

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Gault	4	116	50	1
Payton	3	69	57	0
Wrightman	2	24	23	0
Gentry	1	37	37	0
Ortego	1	19	19	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Jackson	1	0	0	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Burford	4	203	50.8	1	1	53

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Barnes	2	2	17	10	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Sanders	2	40	23	0

	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
FUMBLES					
Barnes	1	1	0	0	0



Walter Payton rushed for 139 yards against Tampa Bay Sunday, the eighth time in his career he has rushed for over 100 yards against the Buccaneers. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

	Att.	Net	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING						
Wilder	14	55	3.9	33	0	
Young	4	23	5.8	9	0	
Howard	2	6	3.0	6	0	

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had
PASSING								
Young	43	22	220	5/32	0	25	1	

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Wilder	4	16	13	0
Bell	2	36	25	0
Carter	5	69	21	0
Magee	5	51	17	0
Franklin	3	11	9	0
Howard	1	4	4	0
Gillespie	1	18	18	0
Williams	1	15	15	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Easmon	1	0	0	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Garcia	6	250	41.7	1	1	58

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Futrell	0	1	0	0	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Howard	1	24	24	0

	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
FUMBLES					
Wilder	1	1	0	0	0
Young	1	0	0	0	0
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0
Carter	1	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(Unofficial)

Chicago Bears

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Hampton	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
Perry	3	2	2	15	0	0	0
Dent	5	1	1	10	0	0	0
Wilson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Richardson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	3	1	0	0	1	1	0

Duerson	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Fencik	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bell	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Forced Fumbles: Marshall, Dent							

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Nelson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Logan	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holmes	4	2	0	0	0	1	0
Browner	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Davis	5	1	0	0	0	1	0
Brantley	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	6	1	1	7	0	0	0
McKeever	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Jones	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Swoope	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Curry	1	3	0	0	0	1	0
Easmon	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Randle	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Murphy	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keys	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilder	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Radio, TV Coverage

Bear fans can listen to Bear talk shows on Chicago radio stations every Monday night.

At 7:05 p.m. on Mondays, WGN (720 AM) broadcasts "The Mike Ditka Show." The only exception is on Dec. 14 when the show is broadcast at 8:05 p.m.

Also on Monday mornings at 7:20 a.m. on WGN, Ditka talks with Bob Collins.

"Bear Talk" with Rich King is broadcast on WBBM (780 AM) Mondays at 7 p.m.

On television Chicago's game against Atlanta Sunday will be shown live at noon by CBS on channel 2 in the Chicago area. WGN also will carry the game live on radio over the Bears Radio Network.

And the "Doug Buffone-Rich King Show" can be seen on cable on Sportsvision every Friday at 7 p.m. in the Chicago area.

Robinson may have taught a lesson to Ditka

Every once in a while, Mike Ditka mentions one of the reasons football appeals to him more than other sports or other professions.

He is attracted to its basic nature, its man-on-man confrontation.

"When you step onto the football field, everybody is equal. And when you step off, everybody's not equal anymore. Somebody's won and somebody's lost. Somebody's dominated and somebody's been dominated. Somebody's taught and somebody's learned," Ditka says.



By
Don
Pierson

The Bears have done considerably more teaching than learning in the last couple years. Inevitably, their pupils will be able to apply their lessons, as the Minnesota Vikings did a few weeks back. The Vikings beat the Bears by playing alert, aggressive, tough football on offense, defense, and special teams.

It was a good reminder.

"They won the way you're supposed to win football games," Ditka said.

When the Bears lost to the Rams, the lesson was similar with special emphasis on another facet of winning and losing — patience.

Steve Dils beat the Bears with one long pass in the third quarter and a couple of short ones in the last minute. Other than that, he looked woefully inadequate to everybody in Soldier Field except Rams' coach John Robinson.

Dils completed his first pass and then threw 14 incompletions before hitting Ron Brown on a 65-yard bomb that tied the score at 17-17 on his last play of the third quarter.

Dils didn't throw another completion until there was 1:49

left in the game. He then completed three of his last five passes to move the Rams into position for the winning field goal.

Dils may not have lasted under Ditka

The question is this: would Steve Dils still have been in the game if Mike Ditka were the Rams' coach?

Ditka yanked his starter, Steve Fuller, after Fuller had completed 9 of 19 passes and the Bears had just run a kickoff back 84 yards to the Ram 15.

Three handoffs by Mike Tomczak and an interception of a Dils pass put the Bears ahead 17-10. Walter Payton was standing on the sidelines with Fuller during this spurt while Thomas Sanders ran for two touchdowns.

After the Rams tied it at 17, the Bears had four chances with Tomczak and managed only two first downs. Tomczak finished with two completions in eight attempts.

Ditka said he thought it was time for a change. It was an interception into the end zone at the end of the first half that soured Ditka on Fuller. He tried to hit Willie Gault and a "miscommunication" resulted in an easy interception that cost the Bears a chance at another field goal.

After Fuller threw another interception that resulted in a Ram field goal that tied the score at 3, Ditka ordered Tomczak to warm up. He allowed Fuller one more series, which resulted in Maury Buford's aborted punt and the Rams' first touchdown.

Fuller obviously was having a less than sparkling evening. But was it any worse than the nightmare Dils was directing?

Robinson cited dropped passes, but it was the bounced passes that were more noticeable. Dils threw a costly interception, too, but Robinson made no move to remove him.

It was an interesting contrast in the handling of quarterbacks. When it was over, Robinson was able to say: "Steve Dils had a good night. If we would have caught more passes, he would have had a great game."

Robinson looks good after the game

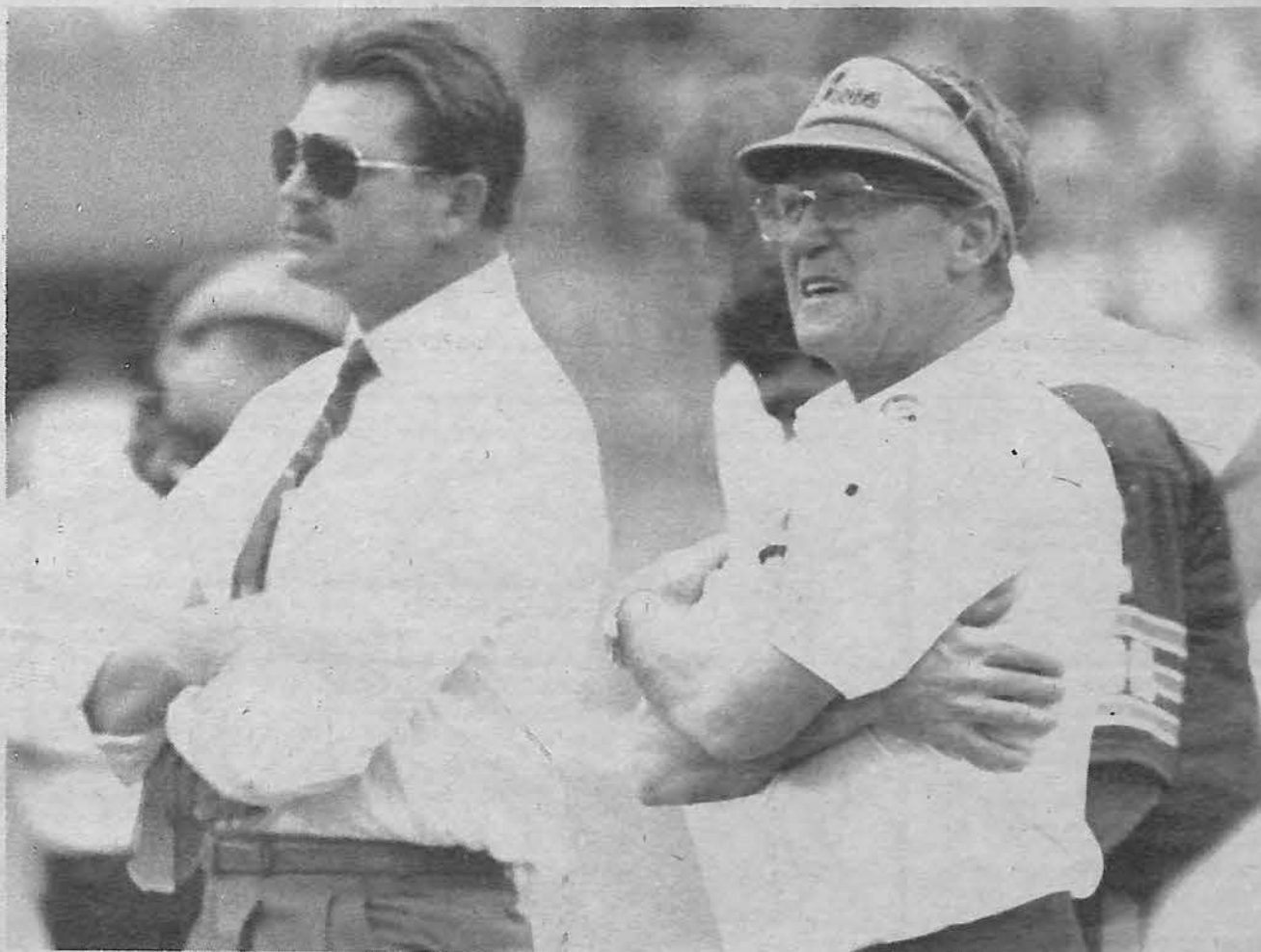
Robinson was able to say it with a straight face because the Rams won and Dils had a lot to do with it.

All Ditka could do was admire the Rams' poise in the final moments.

All Fuller could do was wonder whether Ditka had lost confidence in him.

Ditka does not coddle quarterbacks. He thinks a quarterback should be constructed of the same thick skin as

Continued Next Page



If Mike Tomczak keeps performing like he did Sunday against Tampa Bay, Mike Ditka shouldn't have to worry about taking him out in the middle of a game. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

Get 'em while they're hot...



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Pierson

Continued From Page 5

a tight end. Ditka shuttles tight ends and shuttles fullbacks and shuttles halfbacks and shuttles wide receivers and has tried to shuttle guards and nobody thinks it is such a big deal. Yet when he shuttles quarterbacks, there is a perception that he is tinkering with fragile egos that not only adversely affect the quarterbacks but confound and distract the blockers and catchers and runners.

Maybe John Robinson didn't yank Dils because he didn't think it would matter one way or another. That is the lesson Ram history teaches.

Dils was the fifth Ram starter at quarterback in Robinson's three and a half years, a statistic Robinson himself mentioned with a tone of accomplishment in his voice.

The Rams seem to be the only football team that lives a respectable existence without worrying about who plays quarterback for them.

During Robinson's short tenure, the Rams have finished 9-7, 10-6, 11-5, and were 7-2 after beating the Bears.

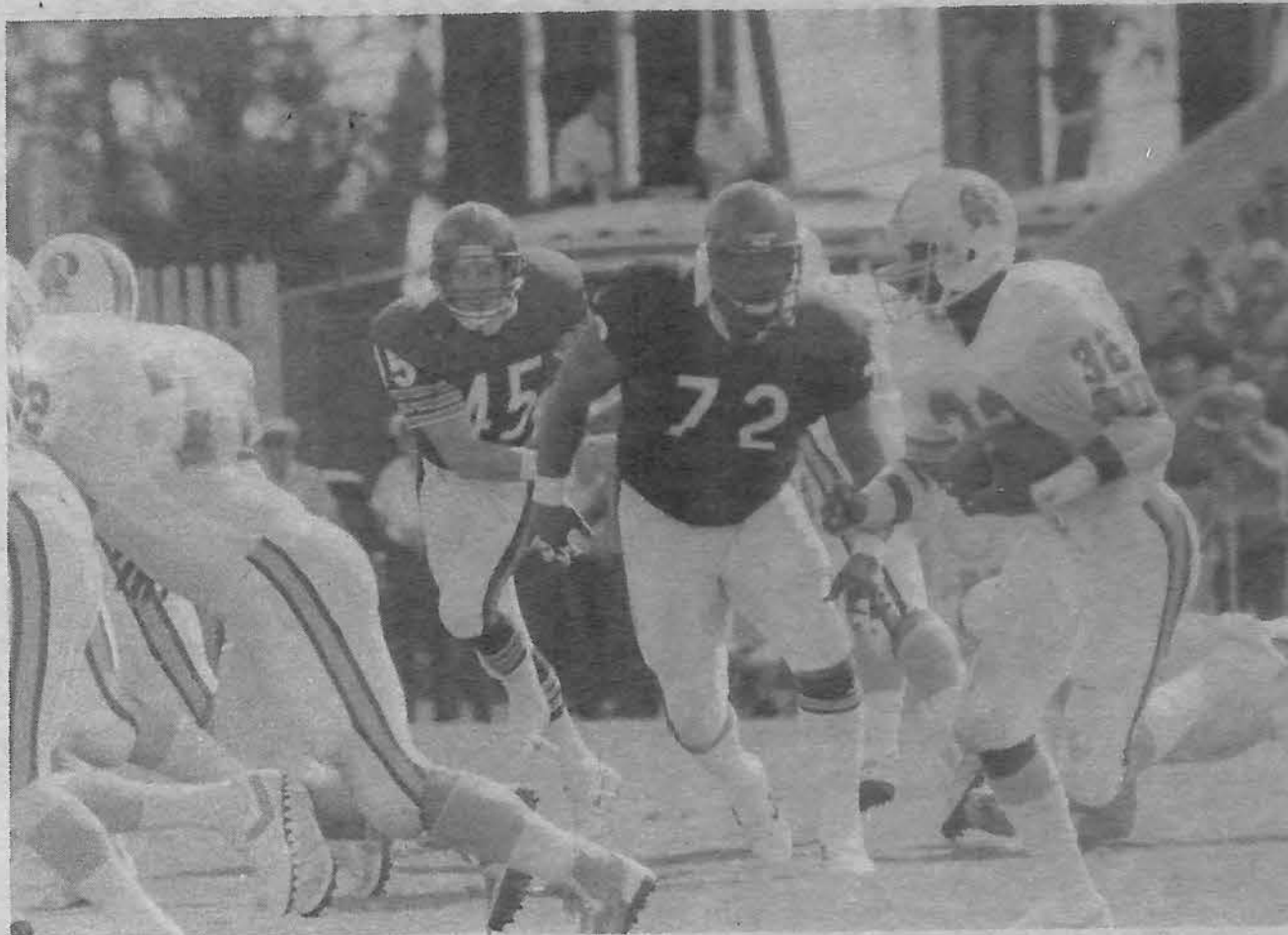
Robinson's quarterbacks have been Dils, Steve Bartkowski, Dieter Brock, Jeff Kemp and Vince Ferragamo.

Top draft choice Jim Everett is waiting in the wings, but Robinson seems in no hurry to use him.

Ditka pointed out that other teams are playing without their first-string quarterbacks. The 49ers won without Joe Montana and the Jets won without Ken O'Brien and the Cowboys won without Danny White.

The Bears have won without Jim McMahon before and they probably will have to do it again if they are going to be as good as they hope.

The Rams and other teams provide lessons in how to do it.



Chicago's William Perry (72) and Gary Fencik close the hole against James Wilder Sunday in Tampa. The temperature on the field at game time was 120 degrees. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

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Ditka gives Tomczak a second chance

Mike Tomczak got a second chance at the Bears' starting quarterback job Sunday against Tampa Bay and intended on taking advantage of it.

Coach Mike Ditka announced on Wednesday last week that Tomczak would be his starter against Tampa Bay in place of the injured Jim McMahon. Steve Fuller lost the job of replacing McMahon after the Monday night loss to Los Angeles in which he threw two interceptions.

The Bears have decided to rest McMahon's shoulder until they're sure it is completely healed. McMahon's shoulder got worse after playing in the Detroit game three weeks ago and he hasn't played since.



Bear Notebook

"I just want to give Mike a run at it, see how he handles it," Ditka said on Wednesday.

Ditka said Fuller's two interceptions against the Rams were a factor in his decision to start Tomczak. "The main thing we don't want to do is turn the ball over. I don't think Steve did a bad job out there, but his choices weren't always good," Ditka said.

Ditka did not think the move means he has lost confidence in Fuller. He said Fuller may be more effective coming off the bench. "I have a tendency to believe that may be the best thing for Steve," he said.

As for the possibility of Fuller or even Doug Flutie entering the game Ditka said, "I'm not adverse to playing anybody out there. That doesn't mean I wouldn't use Steve or I wouldn't use Doug if the situation was right. If I had a gut feeling about something, I wouldn't hesitate to put in a quarterback for a play."

After losing two of three games, Ditka said it was important for the Bears to build on the positive. "I don't know if Mike deserves a start more than Steve. We ran three plays in a row when he came in and they were good plays. And we ran a lot of good plays. He threw some good balls," Ditka said.

Tomczak is just hoping to take advantage of the opportunity. "I'm happy for the news and looking forward to the challenge," he said.

Tomczak said he hasn't changed anything he does to improve his position since early in the season. "I haven't done anything different, just working on the things I've done wrong in the past," he said.

With all the quarterbacks in camp, getting enough snaps might be a problem. But Tomczak said he's been getting enough repetitions.

Tomczak also wasn't worried about looking over his shoulder for someone replacing him.

"That's the role of a backup quarterback," he said. "You can't worry about that. Whoever's the number two or three quarterback doesn't matter. We have four number ones, that's all."

Which prompted McMahon to say, "Whoever Ditka's not mad at starts next week."

•**FLUTIE WAS ACTIVATED** by the Bears the day after their game against the Rams. To make room for Flutie on the roster, the Bears cut wide receiver Clay Pickering. Pickering had not played in the Bears' two previous games. The Bears said, however, that they would like to sign Pickering to a futures contract so he could try out with the team in July.

In another roster move the Bears were expected to take linebacker Brian Cabral off the injured reserve list to replace Dan Rains, who injured his knee in the Rams' game.

"I think we'll activate someone in his place because we'll need another body," Ditka said. "Brian will be fitter for Sunday than Danny would. He can help us with our special teams."

Cabral went on the injured reserve list on July 26 with a dislocated shoulder. His comeback was slowed when he hurt his back in practice. But Ditka said now he should

be ready to return to the team.

•**THE BEARS' INJURED LIST** is getting longer instead of shorter. Here's the status of the other injured Bears going into the Tampa Bay game:

WILLIAM PERRY - He had more fluid drained from his injured knee after practice on Thursday. Perry originally injured the knee against the Packers in the third game of the season. Perry said last week the knee was feeling much better, but he took another hit on it in the second quarter of the Rams' game.

If Perry couldn't play, Ditka said he would move Dan Hampton inside to play Perry's position and have Mike Hartenstein play in Hampton's spot.

Ditka said Perry's weight isn't where it should be, either. "He's still too heavy," he said. "But the weight has more to do with his movement. He feels comfortable with it, but I'd like to see him take it off."

Perry has not collected any money this year for weighing in under 320 pounds, which is what he and Ditka and trainer Fred Caito agreed he should weigh in at. And Ditka said right now Perry is about 10 pounds overweight.

MIKE SINGLETARY - His groin pull is still bothering him and Ditka said he preferred to keep him out of Sunday's game. "I don't want him playing if he's not well," Ditka said. "It diminishes a great player when he can't do the things he wants to do out there."

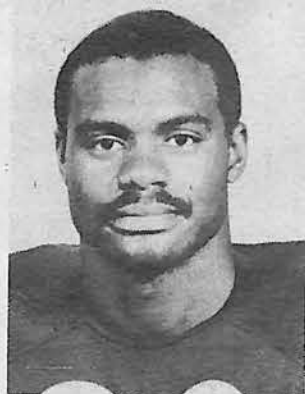
It was obvious in the Rams' game that Singletary wasn't able to do everything he normally can, especially on the play when he wasn't close to being able to cover Eric Dickerson on a screen pass out of the backfield.

OTIS WILSON - He also had fluid drained from his knee last week and was questionable going into the Tampa Bay game.

NEAL ANDERSON - He sprained his knee in the Rams' game and was listed as questionable for Sunday. "It doesn't look very encouraging for him, either," Ditka said.

WALTER PAYTON - He dislocated his big toe on his right foot during the Rams' game. Early in the week it looked very doubtful that he'd be able to play against Tampa Bay. But on Wednesday he jumped rope in front of television cameras to prove the toe didn't bother him and he'd be ready to play Sunday.

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Atlanta Falcons vs. Chicago Bears



Atlanta Falcons Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
3	Rick Donnelly	P	6-0	190	24	2	Wyoming
14	Turk Schonert	QB	6-1	196	29	7	Stanford
16	Dave Archer	QB	6-2	208	24	3	Iowa St.
18	Mick Luckhurst	K	6-1	178	28	6	California
20	Wendell Cason	CB	5-11	197	23	2	Oregon
25	Scott Case	CB	6-0	178	24	3	Oklahoma
26	James Britt	CB	6-0	185	26	4	LSU
28	Bret Clark	S	6-3	198	25	1	Nebraska
29	Sylvester Stamps	RB	5-7	175	25	3	Jackson St.
30	David Croudip	CB	5-8	185	27	3	San Diego St.
31	William Andrews	RB	6-0	220	30	6	Auburn
32	Tim Tyrrell	RB	6-1	202	25	3	No. Illinois
34	Robert Moore	S	5-11	190	22	R	Northwestern St.
35	Keith Williams	WR/RB	5-10	173	22	R	SW Missouri
39	Cliff Austin	RB	6-1	213	26	4	Clemson
42	Gerald Riggs	RB	6-1	232	25	5	Arizona St.
45	Ken Whisenhunt	TE	6-2	233	24	2	Georgia Tech
46	Herman Edwards	CB	6-0	194	32	10	San Diego St.
50	Buddy Curry	LB	6-4	222	28	7	North Carolina
51	Reggie Wilkes	LB	6-4	242	30	9	Georgia Tech
52	Aaron Brown	LB	6-2	238	30	4	Ohio State
54	Joel Williams	LB	6-1	227	29	8	Wis.-La Crosse
55	Wayne Radloff	C/G	6-5	277	25	2	Georgia
56	Joe Costello	LB	6-3	250	26	1	Cent. CT St.
57	Jeff Van Note	C	6-2	268	40	18	Kentucky
59	John Rade	LB	6-1	240	26	4	Boise St.
61	John Scully	G	6-6	270	28	6	Notre Dame
67	Eric Sanders	T	6-7	288	27	6	Nevada-Reno
68	Dennis Harrison	DE	6-8	280	30	9	Vanderbilt
71	Glen Howe	T	6-7	298	24	2	S. Mississippi
72	Andrew Provence	DE	6-3	267	25	4	South Carolina
73	Jamie Dukes	G	6-1	270	22	R	Florida St.
74	Mike Pitts	DE	6-5	277	26	4	Alabama
75	Tony Casillas	NT	6-3	280	22	R	Oklahoma
76	Mike Gann	DE	6-5	265	22	2	Notre Dame
77	Rick Bryan	DE	6-4	265	24	3	Oklahoma
78	Mike Kenn	T	6-7	277	30	9	Michigan
79	Bill Fralic	G	6-5	280	23	2	Pittsburgh
81	Billy Johnson	WR	5-9	170	34	12	Widener
84	Joey Jones	WR	5-8	165	23	1	Alabama
86	Floyd Dixon	WR	5-9	170	22	R	Stephen F. Aust.
87	Ron Middleton	TE	6-2	252	21	R	Auburn
88	Arthur Cox	TE	6-2	262	25	4	Tex. Southern
89	Charlie Brown	WR	5-10	184	27	5	S. Carolina St.
99	Tim Green	LB	6-2	249	22	R	Syracuse

Injured Reserve — CB Bobby Butler, DB Dan Wagoner, S Kenny Johnson, T Brett Miller, G Jeff Kiewel, G/C Joe Pellegrini, TE Mike Landrum, WR Stacey Bailey, WR Aubrey Matthews, WR Anthony Allen, TE Dan Sharp

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RUNNING BACK GERALD RIGGS



Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Doug Flutie	QB	5-9	176	24	R	Boston College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
52	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
54	Brian Cabral	LB	6-1	232	30	7	Colorado
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Wacchter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

Injured Reserve — OT Andy Frederick, RB Calvin Murray, TE Riley Walton, OG Stefan Humphries, LB Dan Rains.

Physically Unable to Perform — WR Dennis McKinnon, CB Leslie Frazier.

Non-Football Injury — WR Glenn Kozlowski.

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Levra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.

Speical to the Bear Report

There is no question the success of the Atlanta Falcons has been one of the biggest surprises in the National Football League this season.

Even though the Falcons went into a bit of a tailspin after starting off the season 4-0, the club is still a legitimate playoff contender. They have already beaten quality teams such as the Rams and the Cowboys, and obviously will want to prove a lot next Sunday when the defending Super Bowl champion Bears come to Fulton County Stadium.

There are many factors why the Falcons have gone from a laughing stock to a division contender. The offense, defense and special teams have all been effective throughout this season. This is a team that never quits, even when it is playing the toughest of foes.

Evidence of that came in the third game of the season, when the Falcons shocked the Cowboys by pulling off a 37-35 victory at Texas Stadium. Mick Luckhurst kicked a 33-yard field goal with 20 seconds left to give the Falcons the win.

"I told the team before the game that it was not going to be the end of the world if we lost or if we won because it is a long season," said head coach Dan Henning. "It was a great win because not many teams go to Dallas and

come away with a victory."

Quick start comes to a halt

While Henning's team has enjoyed the good times, it also has suffered through some bad moments. Prior to last Sunday's contest against the Jets, the Falcons had not posted a victory in four weeks and had lost two consecutive road contests. But Henning wasn't ready to throw in the towel.

"Something good will happen if we continue to get the kind of effort we have received from our team," said Henning.

One of the players who has been exhibiting 100 percent effort on every play is third-year quarterback Dave Archer. The former Iowa State product, who was signed as a free agent in 1984, has been a pleasant surprise this year. Early in the season, he was one of the leading passers in the league. A rash of interceptions brought his rating down to 68.7 at the nine-week mark. But nobody has soured on the signal-caller.

"We can go to the Super Bowl with David as our quarterback" says wide receiver Charlie Brown. "He reminds me a lot of young Joe Theismann. Joe made big plays. David makes big plays. People didn't think Joe had a great arm, and people think the same of Dave. Joe was a great

leader, and I see that in David."

"All my life, I've been told I didn't have the talent to do things," says Archer. "I was told I couldn't play major college football, and I did. I was told I couldn't play in the NFL, and here I am."

Archer has gotten a lot of help from his receivers in making the passing game a success this year. Through nine games, Brown had caught 36 passes for 519 yards and ranked 8th in the conference. Fellow wide-out Floyd Dixon had caught 20 for 365 yards.

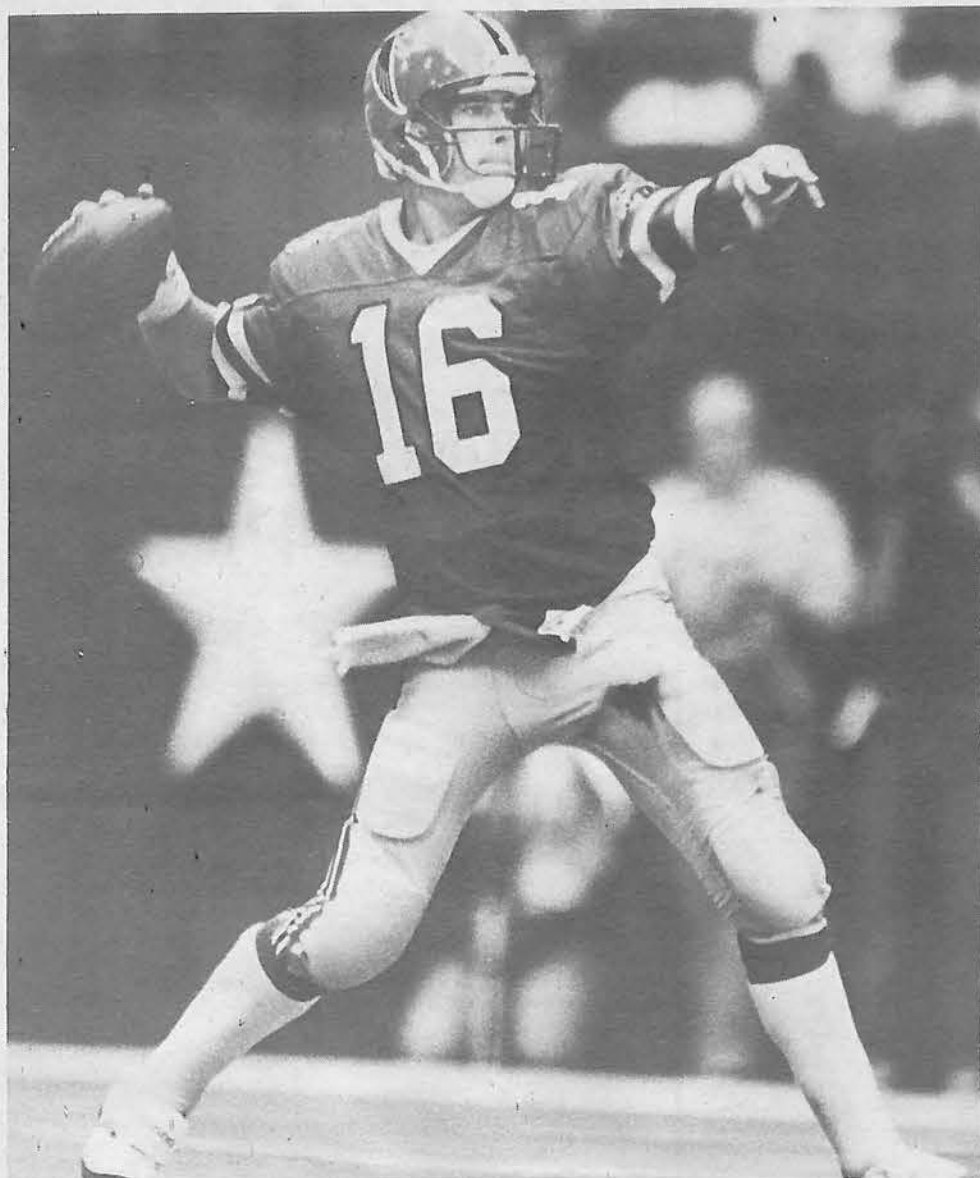
Falcons have best rushing game

While the passing attack ranks 21st in the NFL, the running game is No. 1. Led by Gerald Riggs, who rushed for 792 yards during the first nine weeks, the rushing attack has compiled an average of 180 yards per game. That type of ball control has been a big benefit to Atlanta's defense.

Through nine games, the defense ranked 10th in the league. It was 7th vs. the pass and 20th vs. the rush. The club's defensive standouts include linebacker Buddy Curry (47 solo tackles, 30 assists), linebacker John Rade (46, 33), defensive end Rick Bryan (43, 25, 5 sacks) and safety Bret Clark (3 interceptions).

"The reason why we have remained competitive against

Continued Page 10



QUARTERBACK DAVE ARCHER



WIDE RECEIVER CHARLIE BROWN

Lineups

Atlanta Chicago

Offense

WR 86 Floyd Dixon, 84 Joey Jones
 LT 78 Mike Kenn, 67 Eric Sanders
 LG 61 John Scully, 73 Jamie Dukes
 C 55 Wayne Radloff, 57 Jeff Van Note
 RG 79 Bill Fralic, 73 Jamie Dukes
 RT 67 Eric Sanders, 71 Glen Howe
 TE 88 Arthur Cox, 87 Ron Middleton
 WR 89 Charlie Brown, 35 Keith Williams
 QB 16 Dave Archer, 14 Turk Schonert
 RB 42 Gerald Riggs, 39 Cliff Austin,
 31 William Andrews

WR 83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
 LT 74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
 LG 62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
 C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 RG 57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
 RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
 TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
 WR 89 Keith Ortego, 29 Dennis Gentry
 RB 34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
 FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
 QB 18 Mike Tomczak, 4 Steve Fuller

Defense

LE 76 Mike Gann, 74 Mike Pitts
 NT 75 Tony Casillas, 72 Andrew Provenge
 RE 77 Rick Bryan, 72 Andrew Provenge
 LOLB 51 Reggie Wilkes, 56 Joe Costello
 LILB 50 Buddy Curry, 52 Aaron Brown
 RILB 59 John Rade, 52 Aaron Brown
 ROLB 54 Joel Williams, 56 Joe Costello
 LCB 30 David Croudip, 26 James Britt
 RCB 25 Scott Case, 26 James Britt
 SS 34 Robert Moore, 20 Wendell Cason
 WS 28 Bret Clark, 34 Robert Moore

LE 99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LT 76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
 RT 72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
 RE 95 Richard Dent, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 59 Ron Rivera
 MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
 RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 90 Al Harris
 LC 27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson
 RC 24 Vestee Jackson, 48 Reggie Phillips
 SS 22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
 FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Specialists

P 3 Rick Donnelly
 K 18 Mick Luckhurst
 PC 67 Eric Sanders, 45 Ken Whisenhunt
 KC 67 Eric Sanders, 45 Ken Whisenhunt
 H 16 Dave Archer, 14 Turk Schoenert
 KOR 29 Sylvester Stamps, 35 Keith Williams
 PR 81 Billy Johnson, 86 Floyd Dixon

PK 6 Kevin Butler
 P 8 Maury Buford
 PR 81 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
 KR 29 Dennis Gentry, 20 Thomas Sanders
 KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 PC 52 Larry Rubens, 63 Jay Hilgenberg
 H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

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Nine-game totals

Bears Season Statistics

WON 7, LOST 2 (OVERTIME)	
Sept 7 W 41-31 Cleveland	66,030
Sept 14 AW 13-10 Philadelphia	65,130
Sept 22 W 25-12 at Green Bay	55,527
Sept 28 W 44-7 at Cincinnati	55,146
Oct 5 W 23-0 Minnesota	63,921
Oct 12 W 20-7 at Houston	46,026
Oct 19 L 7-23 at Minnesota	62,851
Oct 26 W 13-7 Detroit	62,064
Nov 3 L 17-20 Rams	64,877
Nov 9 at Tampa Bay	
Nov 16 at Atlanta	
Nov 23 Green Bay	
Nov 30 Pittsburgh	
Dec 7 Tampa Bay	
Dec 15 at Detroit	
Dec 21 at Dallas	

	Bears	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	172	144
Rushing	88	46
Passing	70	85
Penalty	14	13
3rd Down: Made/Att	43/115	47/129
4th Down: Made/Att	3/6	5/11
TOTAL NET YARDS	2924	2522
Avg. Per Game	324.9	280.2
Total Plays	574	574
Avg. Per Play	5.1	4.4
NET YARDS RUSHING	1423	824
Avg. Per Game	158.1	91.6
Total Rushes	323	251
NET YARDS PASSING	1501	1698
Avg. Per Game	166.8	188.7
Tackled/Yards Lost	17/116	29/240
Gross Yards	1617	1938
Att./Completions	234/123	294/141
Completion Pct.	52.6	48.0

Had Intercepted	12	17
PUNTS/AVERAGE	42/ 39.7	53/ 39.8
NET PUNTING AVG.	35.8	34.5
PENALTIES/YARDS	61/ 476	69/ 529
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	19/10	13/ 7
TOUCHDOWNS	22	13
Rushing	12	4
Passing	7	7
Returns	3	2

SCORE BY PERIODS							1	2	3	4	OT	Total
BEARS							55	33	55	57	3	203
OPPONENTS							26	23	48	20	0	117
SCORING		TD-Ru-Pa-Rt			PAT		FG		S	TP		
Butler		0	0	0	21/22		16/22		0	69		
Payton		5	2	0	0/0		0/0		0	42		
Sanders		4	0	0	0/0		0/0		0	24		
Gault		0	2	0	0/0		0/0		0	12		
Gentry		1	0	1	0/0		0/0		0	12		
Marshall		0	0	2	0/0		0/0		0	12		
Ortego		0	2	0	0/0		0/0		0	12		
McMahon		1	0	0	0/0		0/0		0	6		
Moorehead		0	1	0	0/0		0/0		0	6		
Suhey		1	0	0	0/0		0/0		0	6		
McMichael		0	0	0	0/0		0/0		1	2		
BEARS		12	7	3	21/22		16/22		1	203		
OPPONENTS		4	7	2	12/13		9/13		0	117		

SACKS: McMichael 6.0, Dent 4.0, Duerson 4.0, Hampton 4.0, Wilson 4.0, Harris 2.0, Perry 2.0, Hartenstine 1.0, Marshall 1.0, Singletary 1.0, BEARS 29.0, OPPONENTS 17.0

PASSING	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
McMahon	118	65	900	55.1	7.63	5	4.2	5	4.2	t58	6/ 40	76.2
Fuller	62	34	451	54.8	7.27	2	3.2	3	4.8	t50	8/ 53	68.7
Tomczak	50	24	266	48.0	5.32	0	0.0	3	6.0	31	3/ 23	39.3
Payton	4	0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0/ 0	0.0
BEARS	234	123	1617	52.6	6.91	7	3.0	12	5.1	t58	17/ 116	63.3
OPPONENTS	294	141	1938	48.0	6.59	7	2.4	17	5.8	t65	29/ 240	53.4

RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Payton	181	738	4.1	41	5
Sanders	14	170	12.1	t75	4
Suhey	46	125	2.7	10	1
McMahon	16	88	5.5	21	1
Gault	6	83	13.8	33	0
Thomas	26	78	3.0	9	0
Anderson	15	49	3.3	23	0
Gentry	6	46	7.7	t21	1
Fuller	7	31	4.4	10	0
Tomczak	5	28	5.6	11	0
Burford	1	-13	-13.0	-13	0
BEARS	323	1423	4.4	t75	12
OPPONENTS	251	824	3.3	18	4
RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Gault	23	420	18.3	t53	2
Ortego	20	379	19.0	t58	2
Payton	20	150	7.5	30	2
Moorehead	18	210	11.7	27	1
Suhey	17	192	11.3	58	0
Wrightman	8	98	12.3	29	0
Gentry	8	64	8.0	14	0
Barnes	4	54	13.5	14	0
Thomas	2	25	12.5	18	0
Anderson	2	17	8.5	9	0
Bortz	1	8	8.0	8	0
BEARS	123	1617	13.1	t58	7
OPPONENTS	141	1938	13.7	t65	7
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Duerson	5	123	24.6	38	0
Marshall	3	67	22.3	t58	1
Richardson	3	32	10.7	32	0
Fencik	2	34	17.0	24	0
Wilson	2	31	15.5	21	0
Phillips	1	6	6.0	6	0
Jackson	1	0	0.0	0	0
BEARS	17	293	17.2	t58	1

OPPONENTS	12	54	4.5	18	0		
PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg	Bk
Burford	42	1669	39.7	5	13	59	0
BEARS	42	1669	39.7	5	13	59	0
OPPONENTS	53	2109	39.8	2	10	59	0
PUNT RETURNS	Ret	EC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Barnes	31	5	240	7.7	26	0	
BEARS	31	5	240	7.7	26	0	
OPPONENTS	11	10	65	5.9	15	0	
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
Sanders	17	301	17.7	44	0		
Gentry	9	350	38.9	t91	1		
Anderson	3	19	6.3	13	0		
Barnes	1	9	9.0	9	0		
Gault	1	20	20.0	20	0		
BEARS	31	699	22.5	t91	1		
OPPONENTS	39	822	21.1	55	0		
FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		
Butler	1/1	7/7	4/6	3/4	1/4		
Opponents	0/0	4/5	0/0	3/4	2/4		
Butler: (54N, 50N, 47G, 19G) (38N, 46N, 23G, 37N, 55N, 23G) (34G, 52G, 27G) (41G) (24G, 42G, 32G) (31G, 27G) () (29G, 27G) (30G)							
Opponents: (22G) (49G) (22G, 46G, 45G, 50G, 52N) () (48N) (54N) (29G) (28N) (26G, 50G)							

Falcons

Continued From Page 8

excellent teams is because we are getting a solid performance from our defense each week," says Henning.

Special teams have also gotten the job done for the Falcons this year. Luckhurst ranked third in the league in scoring after nine weeks with 61 points. He had connected on 14 of 22 field goal attempts. Punter Rick Donnelly ranked fifth with a 43.0 average.

Kickoff returner Sylvester Stamps ranked sixth with a 20.9 average. Dixon is averaging 6.2 on punt returns.

"We are continuing to grow as a football team and each week presents a different challenge," Henning said.

Doug's Picks

BEARS by SEVEN over FALCONS

Atlanta is sliding

RAIDERS by SIX over BROWNS

LA looking impressive

COWBOYS by FOUR over CHARGERS

San Diego has new life

EAGLES by SIX over LIONS

Philly's defense coming around

STEELERS by THREE over OILERS

Tough game to pick

JETS by 14 over COLTS

No problem for New York

BRONCOS by FOUR over CHIEFS

Denver beginning to struggle

PATRIOTS by 10 over RAMS

New England shouldn't have any problem

BILLS by THREE over DOLPHINS

Not Miami's year

VIKINGS by THREE over GIANTS

New York will be surprised

SAINTS by TWO over CARDINALS

Neither shows much

BENGALS by SIX over SEAHAWKS

Cincinnati will bounce back

PACKERS by THREE over BUCCANEERS

Pack will win battle of the bays

REDSKINS by THREE over 49ERS

Toughest game of the week

Last week's record: 11-2

Season record: 92-44

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Bears were a different team last year

Last season was fun. So were childhood pranks, slumber parties and three-month summer vacations. None of those things are coming back.

Last season, the Bears won four games after trailing by more than a touchdown. They ranked second in NFL scoring.

This year, the Bears are tempted to spike the ball when they make a first down. William Perry hasn't carried the ball, let alone score. Dennis McKinnon has not played. Jim McMahon has played sporadically.

The Bears are a different team now. More to the point, they were a different team last year. They captured imaginations of a country and took no prisoners on Sunday.

By
Kevin
Lamb



They wore an aura of invincibility like a \$500 suit. They had a belly-laugh of a season, the likes of which the NFL had never seen, at least not since the NFL was seen regularly in people's living rooms.

The Rams didn't knock the Bears down to life-size again. They were already there. The Rams just spilled the beans for a national audience. The Bears were an ordinary 7-2 team, fighting for the playoffs and the right to play them at home. There were three others just like them in the NFC.

That's not bad. In fact, it's as good as any team has a right to expect.

The Bears could win another Super Bowl. It won't be the same. It won't be their first. And they'll have to do it differently. They're wise to recognize that, to make concessions to their greater injury problem this season. But they've had fans eager to lynch them all season, not because they're not winning, but because they're not winning the right way.

Their only crime is trespassing on reality. They haven't measured up to last year's fairytale.

Last year is nothing but a photo album now. Memories. People reminisce all the time without trying to relive. They don't drag out old pictures to tear out new gray hairs. They don't rank good times against each other like prime-time TV shows.

Only problem this year is passing game

Fact is, this year's Bears stack up pretty well when the comparison is of cold facts instead of warm moments. The defense has been slightly better. The running game about the same, maybe a shade worse. The problem is the passing game, and understandably so. Jim McMahon has missed five of the first 10 games. Even when McMahon plays, his rickety shoulder has made him harder to recognize than if he'd wear plaid blazers and wing-tips.

"When they're struggling, we feel like we have to take it upon ourselves to make a big play," safety Dave Duerson says, speaking for the defense. Fortunately, the defense is capable of doing it.

"There are points in games where we recognize we have to do more than just give the offense the ball," safety Gary Fencik says. "I think because of the number of times we scored last year, we know we have the personnel capable of not only making turnovers, but scoring points, too. That's such a confident feeling, to know you have the capability to turn the game around without the offense on the field."

What the offense must do, then, is give the defense or kicking teams a chance to make a big play. That means playing carefully, avoiding mistakes and waiting. And waiting. And waiting. As the Bears did against the Rams.

As TV drama, that game's 3-0 first half looked like a documentary on a bus stop. But as football strategy, it made sense. The Ram game is how Bear games are liable to look as long as McMahon's shoulder hurts too much for anything but thumbing his nose. They'll be painstakingly usual, painful sometimes.

But more often than not, the Bears' defense, running game and depth, should be enough to win without a feature-length highlight film of big pass plays. Nobody plays patient, basic football better.

That style slims down the margin for error, though. The Bears can't give the other team's defense a chance to win



Mike Tomczak gets a drink while resting with Walter Payton in the second half of Sunday's game against Tampa Bay. The two combined for a 57-yard pass play to set up Chicago's first score of the game. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

with turnovers. And they have to hit the ground running, literally and figuratively, when games begin.

Bears haven't scored early

Scoring early is important to a team that runs and rushes the passer as well as the Bears. It's especially important when that team is the champion and a swift, early punch can knock the hopes out of an excited opponent. "Dominate the first half, and they're full of doubts by the second," defensive end Richard Dent says.

Remember two years ago? In their first 12 games, the Bears scored on nine opening drives, seven times for touchdowns. That was the year they set the NFL sack record. Last year they scored on four of 16 opening drives, with three touchdowns and only two turnovers.

The Ram game was the first time this year they scored on an opening drive. Five times, they had turned the ball over.

"Maybe we're trying to be too fancy in the first part of the game," tight end Tim Wrightman said. "By the fourth quarter, we're just coming off the ball at the guy in front of us and we're doing pretty well."

Ditka wouldn't argue. The running game may have been hurt most by his demanding standards. Running games need patience. Basic plays don't always work the first time. He has declared a reaffirmation to basic, straight-ahead football, even if it's not so exciting or overwhelming.

The Bears are good enough to win most close games.

Continued Next Page

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Nine-game totals

Bears Defensive Stats

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	PD's	FR's	FC	BL	Sacks/Yds
Mike Singletary	83	49	30	6	0	0	0	1 / -12
Gary Fencik	79	33	42	6	1	1	0	0 / 0
Wilber Marshall	61	39	22	3	1	1	0	1 / -9
Dave Duerson	60	33	27	8	1	0	0	4 / 35
Otis Wilson	67	32	35	3	0	1	0	4 / 28
Steve McMichael	57	25	32	2	0	1	0	5.5 / 44
William Perry	49	28	21	1	0	0	0	2 / 18
Mike Richardson	38	28	10	13	0	1	0	0 / 0
Reggie Phillips	31	16	15	7	0	1	0	0 / 0
Dan Hampton	37	14	23	0	2	0	1	4.5 / 41
Richard Dent	39	15	24	1	0	3	0	4 / 32
Vestee Jackson	5	2	3	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Todd Bell	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Shaun Gayle	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Mike Hartenstine	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1 / -5
Henry Waechter	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Al Harris	5	2	3	1	0	0	0	2 / 21
Ron Rivera	23	17	6	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Jim Morrissey	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Dan Rains	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0

			SPECIAL TEAM TACKLES		T	Solo	Asst.
Thomas Sanders	10	7	3	Todd Bell	4	4	0
Jim Morrissey	9	7	2	Keith Ortego	1	1	0
Dan Rains	10	7	3	N. Anderson	7	5	2
Ron Rivera	3	2	1	K. Butler	1	1	0
Shaun Gayle	6	3	3	V. Jackson	1	0	1
Dave Duerson	3	2	1	L. Rubens	1	0	1
Calvin Thomas	3	1	2	E. Moorehead	1	0	1
				R. Phillips	1	1	0

Lamb

Continued From Page 11

Even with only four seconds left after the Rams' winning field goal, linebacker Mike Singletary said, "I thought something good would happen. That's a good feeling to have."

It is. The Bears have counted on making big plays when they needed them because they've made them so often. "One of those things you take for granted is winning," Singletary said. "Now we realize how hard it is, whether it's a matter of one play or what." But there is more than one way to do it. Last year's way and this year's way look the same in the standings.

"The only way we'll be compared favorably to last year's team is if we win the Super Bowl," Fencik says. If that happens, maybe nobody will bother asking how.

Bears' Schedule

REGULAR SEASON

BEARS 41, Cleveland 31

BEARS 13, Philadelphia 10 OT

BEARS 25, Green Bay 12

BEARS 44, Cincinnati 7

BEARS 23, Minnesota 0

BEARS 20, Houston 7

Minnesota 23, BEARS 7

BEARS 13, Detroit 7

Los Angeles Rams 20, BEARS 17

BEARS 23, Tampa Bay 3

Sun., Nov. 16 at Atlanta Falcons, Noon

Sun., Nov. 23 GREEN BAY PACKERS, Noon

Sun., Nov. 30 PITTSBURGH STEELERS, Noon

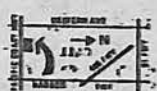
Sun., Dec. 7 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, Noon

Mon., Dec. 15 at Detroit Lions, 8 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 21 at Dallas Cowboys, 3 p.m.

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Eagles are as good as Bears: Ryan

Now that the Eagles are flying high (3-6 after nine weeks), head coach Buddy Ryan is on top of the world. "We're pretty well on schedule," Ryan said at mid-season. "We just should have had a couple of more wins than we have. I think we're just as good a team as Dallas (6-3). Just as good as any team we've played except Washington (7-2)."

As good as the Giants, who beat the Eagles 35-3 Oct. 12?

By
Brian
Hewitt



NFL Notebook

"I think we are," Ryan said.

As good as the Bears, who beat the Eagles Sept. 14? "Oh, I think we're as good as the Bears."

As good as the Broncos, who clobbered the Eagles 33-7 in Week Three?

"I also didn't mention Denver," Ryan said. "But I don't see Denver being anything either."

Ryan was the Bears' defensive coordinator last year.

CHARGERGATE:

Closer inspection of recent developments in San Diego suggest coach Don Coryell was fired Oct. 29 even though the official announcement was he resigned.

The morning of the announcement Coryell conducted his usual coaches' meeting for three hours. At the meeting he said nothing to his assistants about resigning.

At noon Coryell had a 20-minute meeting with team owner Alex Spanos before going home. He left without saying goodbye to any players or assistants. He didn't answer his phone or telephone the rest of the day.

"I just don't think he quit," said Charger center Don Ma-

cek. "I've never known Don Coryell to quit in his life. To say he quit does not sit well with me at all."

Said former San Diego defensive coordinator Tom Bass, a close personal friend: "It's a sad day. He's brought more victories to this town than a lot of people will. I can't help but feeling that some people wanted to have this happen. And I hope they're happy."

Prior to the resignation, Al Saunders had been promoted to assistant head coach. Saunders is now running the team.

Added Bass: "Don was in a no-win situation. It's like if you win, we fire you. If you lose, we fire you. I've never heard of anything like that before."

Said former San Diego linebacker coach Chuck Weber: "The players had somebody else to go to (Saunders) and that's a mistake. You can only have one boss. This was not Don's fault."

THE SACKING OF ROAM:

The 10 most sacked NFL quarterbacks of all time (as of Nov. 1):

1. Fran Tarkenton, 483.
2. Craig Morton, 405.
3. Ken Anderson, 397.
4. Archie Manning, 396.
5. Jim Plunkett, 358.
6. tie. Steve Bartkowski, 356.
6. Ron Jaworski, 356.
8. Roman Gabriel, 348.
9. Joe Theismann, 340.
10. Bob Griese, 335.

LOOSEN UP RIGGO:

Former Redskin running back John Riggins surfaced recently in the nation's capital on what apparently is going to be a regular post-game television show called, "The World According To Riggo."

Asked why he had disappeared since departing the Redskins last spring, Riggins said, "I don't think the next president wants Ronald Reagan hanging around the White House."

SEATTLE STEW:

The Seattle Seahawks say they aren't just replacing

Dave Krieg in the starting lineup with Gale Gilbert temporarily. They have guaranteed Gilbert will be their starter for the rest of the year.

"I don't want Gale looking over his shoulder every time to see if we're warming up Dave Krieg," said Seahawk offensive coordinator Steve Moore. "And I don't want him to feel that we're going to put the quick hook on him if things don't go well. Gale Gilbert's got the job."

In his 48 career starts Krieg is 30-18. He ranks second in the NFL over the last three years in total touchdowns with 87 behind Miami's Dan Marino.

MUSICAL PRAYERS:

The 49ers are shopping Ray Wersching's job. In recent weeks they have brought in at least four different placekickers for tryouts.

Wersching missed a 35-yard field goal against Green Bay Oct. 26. He missed from 50 and 46 the week before that in the 49ers' 10-10 overtime tie against Atlanta. And he blew a 38-yarder the week before that in an overtime loss to Minnesota.

QUICK STUDY:

Brigham Young coach LaVell Edwards is unhappy with Bear quarterback Jim McMahon's public image. He was especially displeased with a story on McMahon that appeared in *Sports Illustrated* earlier this season.

"Jim certainly wasn't like he is now when he was at BYU or he would never have been the quarterback," Edwards told the *Phoenix Gazette*. "I don't care how good he was. We had players who got into trouble. But he never got into trouble."

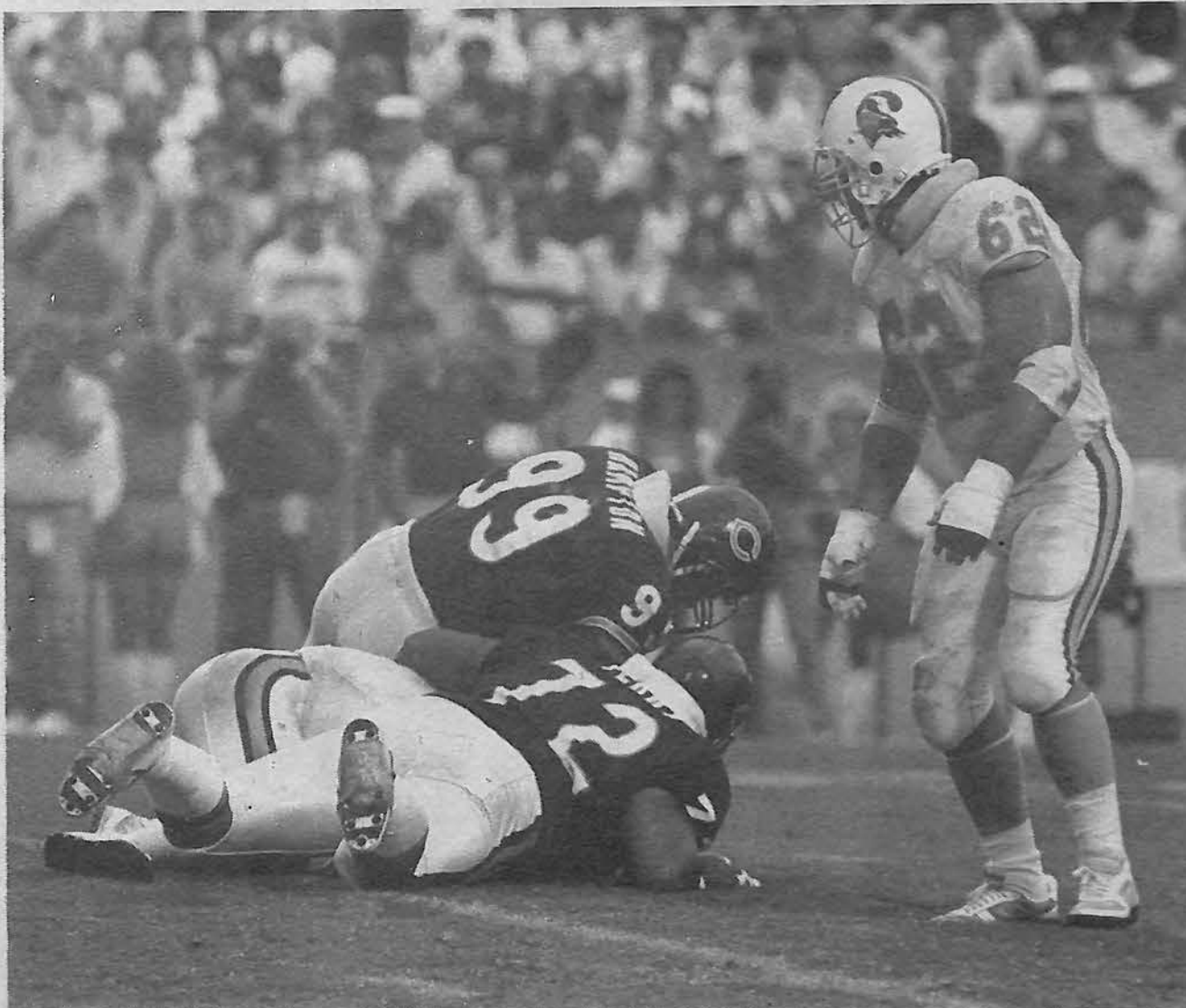
More Edwards on McMahon: "He could watch a film one time and get more out of it than guys who watched it five times. He has an innate feel for the game. Ed Hughes told me the same thing."

TODD SQUAD:

Ever-effusive Raider tight end Todd Christensen after scoring three touchdowns against Houston Oct. 26:

"Hey, 10 years from now people won't remember who I was... Actually they will. I'll have Bryant Gumbel's job."

NOTES AND QUOTES: Raider teammates are reportedly saluting former Navy running back Napoleon McCallum every time he enters the locker room... Cleveland owner Art Modell was reportedly unhappy with head coach Marty Schottenheimer when Schottenheimer didn't play the speedy Curtis Dickey at running back Oct. 19. One week later Dickey played and gained 106 yards against Minnesota... Appropriately-named, 290-pound Chiefs tackle Irv Eatman after quarterback Bill Kenney took his offensive linemen out for dinner: "I only had two lobsters." ... Last year at this time Seattle punter Vince Gamache was driving a UPS truck... The Redskins are 14-0 on weekends after Monday night games dating back to 1977... Miami linebacker Hugh Green had four sacks before being knocked out with an injury in the middle of the third game. After eight games he still led the Dolphins in sacks... St. Louis guard Joe Bostic on the team's horrible start: "Maybe they ought to throw us all off a bridge and get 45 new guys."



William Perry and Dan Hampton helped shut down the Tampa Bay offense and hold the Buccaneers to just three points in Sunday's game. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

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Flutie 'chokes' in his first NFL appearance

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

TAMPA - The long-awaited debut of Doug Flutie in the National Football League finally happened Sunday at Tampa.

Flutie didn't set the league on fire in his brief appearance toward the end of the Bears' 23-3 win against Tampa Bay.

Just ask Mike Tomczak.

"He went in there and he choked," Tomczak said with a smile.

Flutie entered the game with the Bears at the Buccaneers' 17-yard line. Five running plays later on third and goal at the five, Flutie threw his first NFL pass. But he led tight end Emery Moorehead a little too much in the end zone and the pass fell incomplete.

"That's probably going to be the most talked about incompletion in NFL history," Tomczak said.

The Bears settled for a 22-yard field goal by Kevin Butler on fourth down.

Coach Mike Ditka wanted to give Flutie a little more time in the game, but things didn't work out.

"I wanted to give him a little more time but it was hard with the things we wanted to do," he said. Flutie could only run the plays that were written on his forearm. "I've been spending time on learning the system, not learning the signals," he said. Each play was numbered, and the Bears would signal in the number of the play to be run.

"That was the idea, to get out there and get my feet wet and work it in casually," Flutie said. "I don't want to be so anxious to get in there that I start wishing bad on the team. Mike played a heck of a game and we needed it from him."

Flutie described his brief performance as "not smooth, but good. I drew them offsides once on a third-down play."

On another play Flutie went the wrong way on a handoff and ended up scrambling for a loss of one yard.

"I missed the handoff but I reacted and felt comfortable tucking the ball under my arm and taking off with it."

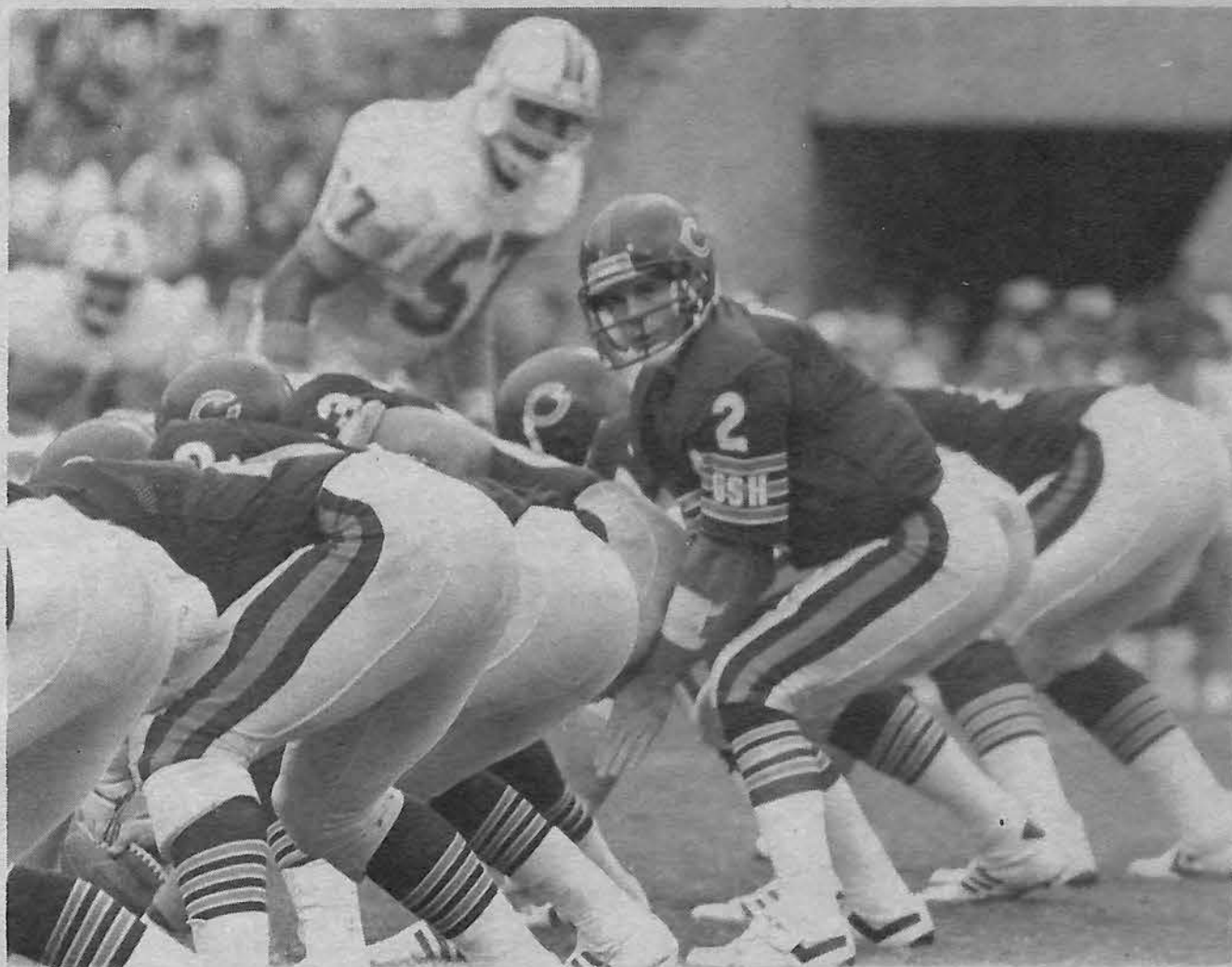
"He made a good play to salvage the play," Ditka said.

As for his only pass of the appearance Flutie said, "I bootlegged it out and just sat, was patient and felt comfortable. Emery wasn't open right away. I tried to buy some time and look the run. He was open, but he was on the move. So I laid it right on out there."

Flutie's debut was a large improvement over his debut in the USFL, when he threw interceptions on his first two passes.

Though he didn't make any changes at the line of scrimmage, Flutie said he could have audibled if he had to.

More than anything else, Flutie's appearance finally got the monkey off his back and he can get to work and come in a game without it being a national event.



In his NFL debut on Sunday in the fourth quarter against Tampa Bay, Doug Flutie threw incomplete on his only pass attempt. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

Despite all the hype that has surrounded him, Flutie says he hasn't felt that much pressure.

"I'm not under pressure," he said. "The only pressure I feel is from myself."

Nerves weren't a problem either for this man made of steel. "I don't think I get nervous, I get excited," he said. "Coming into the game I didn't know if I'd get on the field or not. But the guys in the huddle were pretty much excited for me and that helped."

Being accepted by his teammates also has helped

Flutie. Already there has been more than one practical joke played on Flutie. One day when large pizzas were ordered for the players at camp, one small personal size pizza was ordered bearing Flutie's name.

During practice on another day players were throwing around a miniature football with Flutie's name on it.

And on Sunday Flutie said, "Some guys gave me the choke sign when I didn't get it in the end zone."

Such is life in the National Football League. Flutie can only hope for more jokes to come along in the future.

Tomczak

Continued From Page 3

ball away from Tampa Bay's Craig Curry.

Tomczak then threw incomplete to stop the clock with seven seconds left. With one time out remaining Tomczak threw incomplete to Gault, but the play didn't count because Gentry called time out before the snap.

Butler breaks his own record

So with no time outs left, the Bears settled for a 25-yard field goal by Butler for a 17-3 halftime lead. The kick was Butler's 14th consecutive field goal, a new Bear record. Two more field goals in the game by Butler stretched his record streak to 16.

"Kevin, I can't say enough about him," Ditka said.

The Bears rolled up 253 yards in offense in the half, with 182 of the yards coming through the air. Not to be outdone, Payton gained 74 yards on the ground in the half against the worst defense in the league against the rush. He finished the game with 139 yards on 20 carries.

In the third quarter it was the defense that carried the load for the Bears. When Tampa Bay threatened by crossing into Bear territory, the defense got tough and shut down the Buccaneers.

On its second drive of the quarter Tampa Bay had a first and 10 from its own 49. The Buccaneers worked the ball to the Bears' 42 when on third and one Wilder was stopped for no gain.

Tampa Bay went for it on fourth and one, but Young's play-action pass to Pat Franklin fell incomplete.

After the series Wilder left the game with bruised ribs. On its other two series in the quarter Tampa Bay ran a total of only nine plays.

"Defensively we played outstanding except in third-down situations," Ditka said. Tampa Bay converted seven of 17 third-down attempts in the game.

Bear offense gets moving again

The Bear offense got things rolling again toward the end of the quarter. This time, the Bears used exclusively the run to move the ball. Starting at their own 35-yard line with three minutes left in the quarter, the Bears moved the ball to Tampa Bay's five-yard line. Butler then came in with 13:25 left in the game to kick a 23-yard field goal, giving the Bears a 20-3 lead.

Payton gained 30 yards on the drive on six carries. Calvin Thomas nearly broke a long run for a touchdown on the drive when he ran 23 yards to the Buccaneers' 13.

Payton went over 100 yards rushing for the day on the drive. It marked the eighth time in his career Payton has rushed for over 100 yards against Tampa Bay.

As far as career days go, Sunday must have been one of Tomczak's best. "He made a great throw on the first pass to Willie, and he had a lot of good passes," Ditka said. "I thought Mike responded well. He handled things well, he was into the game. He never really missed anything."

Said Payton of Tomczak, "He's just like all the rest of the quarterbacks. When he's out there he takes control."

For Tomczak, the game was a chance to take advantage of an opportunity. And he responded well to the pressure.

"I thrive on pressure," he said. "I love every minute of it. But a good supporting cast makes it a lot easier. I think it was a big stepping stone. I pushed my stock up a little bit."

Tomczak said when he was on the field, though, he wasn't thinking it was a big game for him. "In the back of my mind I might have thought that. But that's beside

the point."

That's definitely true. The point is that Tomczak responded well again to the starting role. And if Jim McMahon can't play again next week against Atlanta, Ditka will have an easy choice to make about his starting quarterback.

"Certainly there was a smile on my dad's face when the game was over," Tomczak said. And certainly there were a lot of Bear fans smiling across the country.

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Looking For McMahon's Book

Dear Editor,
Would you please tell me where I can purchase one of Jim McMahon's books that he has written?

Joyce Hangas
Three Forks, Montana

Editor's note: His book should be available at any major book store, such as Walden's or B. Dalton's book stores.

Bears Will Go To Super Bowl

Dear Doug,
Some of my friends say Chicago will not make it to the Super Bowl this year. When I ask them why they say that they aren't as good this year. I think the reason they say that is because Chicago hasn't beat everyone by a score of something like 44-0.

I personally think that Chicago will go to the Super Bowl even though they lost to Minnesota. Last year they lost one game and they still went to the Super Bowl and won. I have faith in them.

Steve Morris
El Dorado, AR

Monday Night Win Doesn't Mean Super Bowl Berth

Dear Doug,
The man my mother is dating is a Rams fan, and when the

Rams beat the Bears on Monday night, I knew I'd have to rise to their defense. What I came up with is this: in 1984, the Chargers beat the Bears on Monday night and didn't go to the Super Bowl; last year the Dolphins beat the Bears on Monday night and didn't go the Super Bowl. Bears all the way to Pasadena!

Jeff Hatos
Palmdale, CA

Bears Need To Do Three Things

Dear Doug,

I believe much of the criticism that the Bears have received this season in regard to their sub-par performance compared to last year is quite unfounded. Just the fact that the Bears are the defending Super Bowl champions makes other teams adjust their game plans to confuse the Bears, like Mike Ditka said.

I believe that if the Bears do these things they will have a highly successful season and likely repeat as champions.

1, rush more than the other team; 2, use McMahon wisely (when needed); 3, build an offensive line again.

John Mueller
Fort Wayne, IN

Another Letter From Dallas

Dear Doug,

After reading about another stellar offensive performance by the Bears against the Lions, I think it's time to make some changes. I think Walter Payton should buy his offensive lineman (aka The Pink and Chartreuse Brothers) each a new purse every time the opposition's defense holds Sweetness under 50 yards rushing. The Bears' offensive linemen could use their purses to hit the opponent's defensive team in an attempt to stop Walter from being stuffed for a big loss. As far as I know, there are no penalties for being hit by a purse.

Another new offensive wrinkle the Bears should try is to send all four quarterbacks in at the same time and have them take turns to see who can find or hit an open receiver. They could also experiment with a new play — the completed pass, or possibly one of their trick plays — the touchdown pass. Of course, they could always keep Jim McWimp on the sideline to give him some extra time to start writing his next book.

Needless to say, the Dallas Cowboys are eagerly awaiting Doomsday Dec. 21, when the Pokes will run all over the Bears like a steamroller over a bunch of stinking onions. During the game you will observe several banners in the stands proclaiming the ineptness of the Bears' offense and defense. The banners will simply read:

THE WHOLE WORLD'S LAUGHING!

An appropriate tribute to the team that is the biggest joke in the NFL.

John Johnson
Dallas, Texas

Flutie Is A Real Bear

Dear Editor,

As a loyal Bear fan since I was nine years old, I've seen the Bears make a lot of trades and other assorted deals. Now, about the latest.

I'm glad the Bears traded for and signed Doug Flutie for 1986. I have absolutely no criticism over his physical stature nor the impact his signing has had on the team. You have to applaud his accomplishments and talents.

Doug Flutie is the epitome of a winning Bear football player. He is tough, competitive and smart. He uses his skills to the best of his abilities and doesn't try and do something he isn't capable of. He is quick, strong and has the attitude of a winner. Those are the reasons that Mike Ditka wanted Flutie.

As for the players, it is their business to play football at a professional level, not be critical of management that is ever trying to maintain winning. Any player who does what is expected of him stays. If he doesn't, he leaves. Flutie will face the same challenges that every other football player faces. Had the Bears paid more attention to preparing for the Vikings rather than Doug Flutie, that game might have had a different outcome.

Welcome to the Chicago Bears, Doug Flutie, and good luck.

Larry Peck
Sacramento, CA

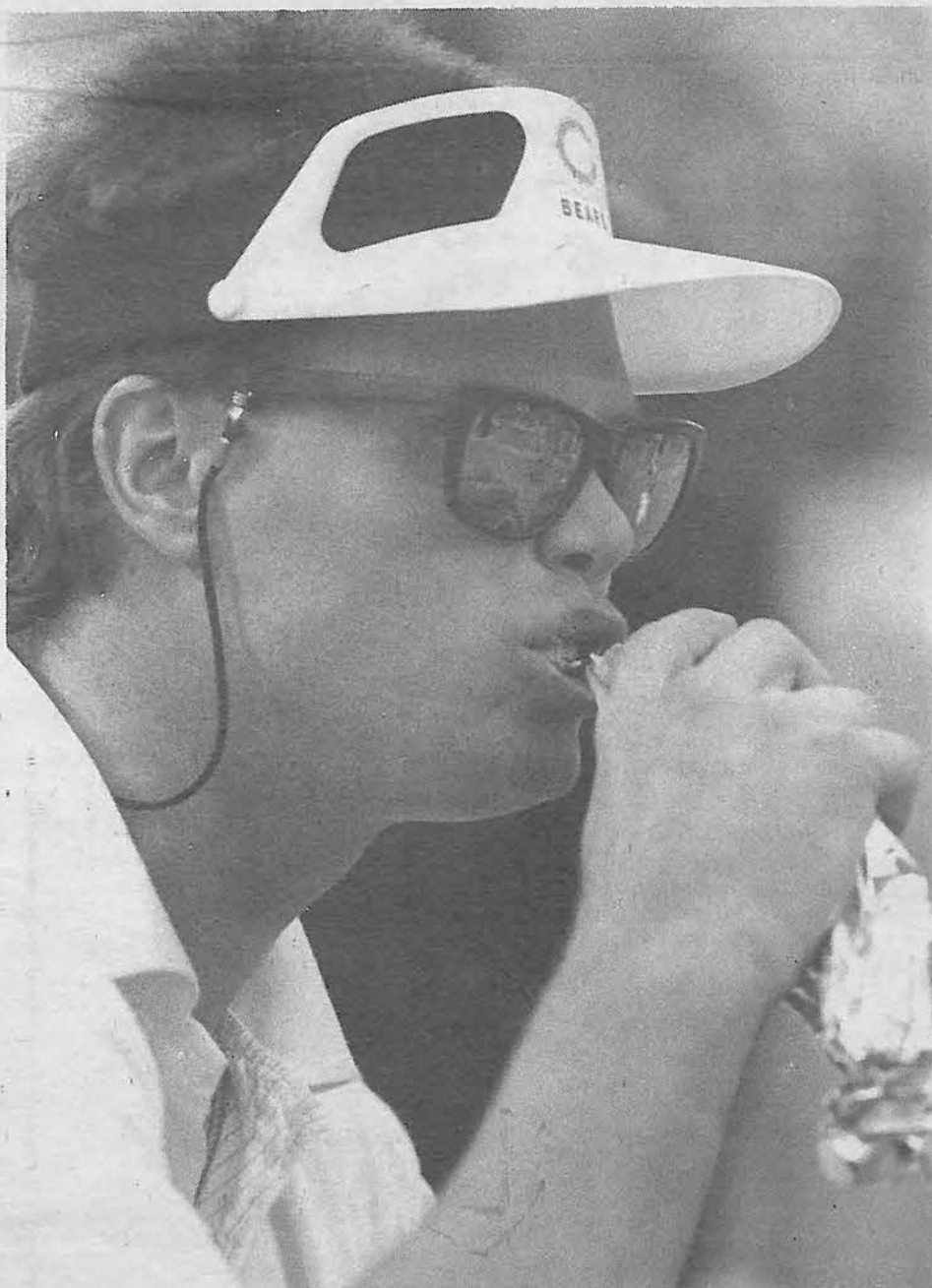
Flutie Is Quarterback Of The Future

Dear Doug,

I foresee stormy clouds ahead for the Chicago Bears with Jim McMahon leading the way. After watching Monday Night Football against the Los Angeles Rams I see they have quarterback problems. Neither Steve Fuller nor Mike Tomczak are the answer. In the five years Jim has been with the Bears, he has spent quite a lot of time on the bench.

Look at the greats like Fran Tarkenton, Bob Griese, and Joe Theismann, they rarely missed games. If Jim wants to be the team player he says he is, why doesn't he help Doug Flutie? Doug is the quarterback of the future. I very much would like to see Doug in a few games. If the Bears don't start doing it now they might not clinch their division or home advantage through the playoffs, so lets get back on the winning track.

Robert Misanik
Sparks, NV



Jim McMahon sat out Sunday's game with a sore shoulder, but it was strong enough to lift a hot dog on the sidelines. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New York Jets	9	1	0	.900	272	187
New England	7	3	0	.700	274	153
Miami	4	5	0	.444	226	240
Buffalo	3	7	0	.300	189	217
Indianapolis	0	10	0	.000	111	260

Central Division

Cleveland	6	3	0	.667	199	189
Cincinnati	6	4	0	.600	237	271
Pittsburgh	3	7	0	.300	154	211
Houston	2	8	0	.200	184	234

Western Division

Denver	8	2	0	.800	233	155
Kansas City	7	3	0	.700	232	202
L.A. Raiders	6	4	0	.600	191	181
Seattle	5	5	0	.500	192	185
San Diego	2	8	0	.200	198	251

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New York Giants	8	2	0	.800	203	138
Washington	8	2	0	.800	228	190
Dallas	6	4	0	.600	253	168
Philadelphia	3	7	0	.300	145	196
St. Louis	2	8	0	.200	133	247

Central Division

Chicago	8	2	0	.800	226	120
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	238	168
Detroit	6	7	0	.300	150	191
Tampa Bay	2	8	0	.200	164	269
Green Bay	1	9	0	.100	118	265

Western Division

L.A. Rams	7	3	0	.700	164	150
San Francisco	6	3	1	.650	254	154
Atlanta	5	4	1	.550	198	185
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	181	160



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